

Ministry of Justice campus in Saint-Laurent-du Maroni

Client :

Apij

Consultants :

Pizzarotti (mandataire), Architecturestudio, INGEROP,
CSIngénierie, EQUANS, Sodexo, ,

Location:

Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni, Guyane

Project type :

Tribunal judiciaire, SPIP (service pénitentiaire d'insertion et de probation)
PJJ (Protection judiciaire de la jeunesse), Maison de la Cité
Centre pénitentiaire

Surface area :

40 700 m²

Status :

Ongoing studies



Fig. 1 View of the main entrance to the law courts

The campus expresses a new balance between habitat and nature, as well as a reasoned management of natural resources.

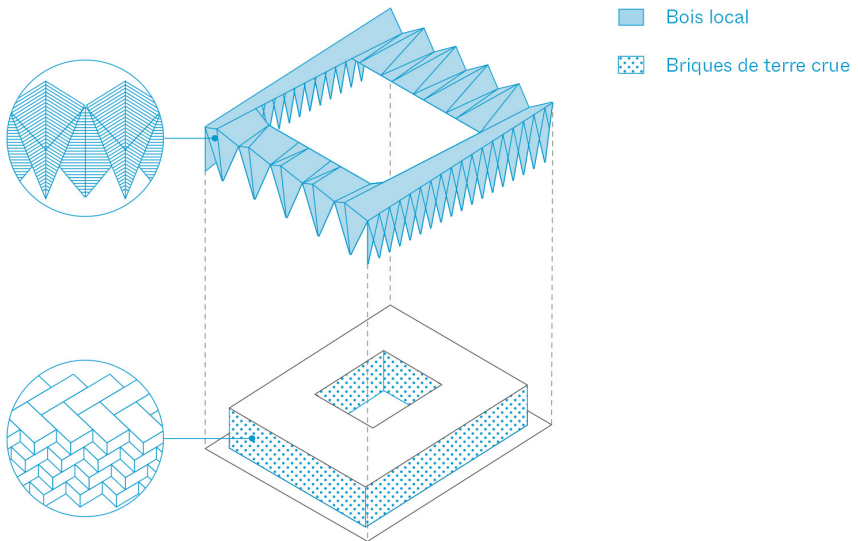


Fig. 2 Vue of the court from the national route 1 r

The creation of a Ministry of Justice complex in Saint-Laurent du Maroni is a symbolic and large-scale project in this town in western French Guiana, located far from the major institutional facilities, and whose history is inseparable from that of the penal colony and French colonisation.

The unusual situation of French Guiana – the only European territory located in South America – creates a specific constraint for the local economy, and notably for construction projects. Materials from industrial sectors are mainly imported from Europe to meet the criteria of European standards, and to compensate for the absence of local industries. From the outset of the project, the requirement for bio-based and geo-based materials on site appeared to be essential.



Fig. 3

The nature of the soil, clay-based, and the presence of a nascent raw clay brick industry, allowed us to integrate this material as an input into the project. The use of local, exotic wood was also made possible through a growing local industry, which exploits the resources in accordance with the criteria for the preservation of the Amazonian forest.

The project is an opportunity to strengthen the local economic system.



Fig. 4

The courthouse faces the public space of the new district, and acts as the linchpin of the city's entrance. Its architecture is contextual and evocative of Guyanese culture. An outer layer of large openwork wooden palms shelters a volume of raw clay from the weather, which integrates all the courtrooms. In the gap between these two layers, the Salle des Pas

Perdus (public lobby) is naturally ventilated, swept by the trade winds, and open onto the landscape.

The idea of "the right material in the right place" has been a guiding principle for the project; the use of concrete has been limited to spaces accessible to the inmates, in order to meet the required safety and security criteria.



Fig. 5 Vue sur le patio de la Maison de la Cité